

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Farm Service Agency
Washington, DC 20250

Notice SP-6

For: State and County Offices

Pacific Salmon Fishermen Approved Under the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) Program

Approved by: Deputy Administrator, Farm Programs



1 Overview

A Background

Under TAA program, both technical assistance and cash benefits are provided to eligible agricultural commodity producers if an increase in imports has contributed importantly to a decline in price, resulting in a drop in net farming or fishing income.

FAS has determined, based on two petitions filed by Pacific salmon fishermen, that increased imports of frozen salmon fillets contributed importantly to a decline in the landed prices in the States of Alaska and Washington from January 2002 through December 2002 when compared with the previous 5-year average. Therefore, the groups of producers represented by these approved petitions are eligible to receive TAA benefits.

B Purpose

This notice provides State and County Offices with:

- information regarding the FAS certification of petitions filed by Pacific salmon fishermen
- instructions to begin sign-up for Pacific salmon fishermen represented by FAS certified petitions.

Disposal Date

January 1, 2005

Distribution

State Offices; State Office relay to County Offices

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2 Pacific Salmon Fishermen Eligible for TAA

A Approved Petitions

Notice SP-5, paragraph 4, provided the petition review and certification process for groups or individuals acting as authorized representatives of an association of agricultural commodity producers electing to petition FAS for TAA benefits.

Petitions were filed on behalf of Pacific salmon fishermen by three salmon fishermen associations and published in the Federal Register on September 15, 2003. After review and investigation of the petitions for qualifying requirements, petitions filed by the following associations on behalf of their producers have been approved and certified as eligible for TAA benefits by FAS:

- United Fishermen of Alaska, Juneau, Alaska
- Puget Sound Salmon Commission, Seattle, Washington.

B Notification of Approved Petitions

The approved petitions certified as eligible for TAA benefits provided in subparagraph A, will be implemented based on the issuance of a Departmental press release on October 22, 2003. This announcement will start the 90-calendar-day application period.

A notice summarizing the petition determination and the reasons for making the determination will be published in the Federal Register as soon as practical.

C Sign-Up Period

Sign-up for TAA benefits for Pacific salmon fishermen covered by an approved petition will begin on October 22, 2003, and will continue for 90 calendar days, ending on January 20, 2004.

Individual TAA applicants shall submit the completed FSA-229, according to Notice SP-5, Exhibit 1, by **COB January 20, 2004**, to the FSA County Office or USDA Service Center nearest the place of residence.

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2 Pacific Salmon Fishermen Eligible for TAA (Continued)

C Sign-Up Period (Continued)

Residents in the State of Alaska shall submit the completed FSA-229 to any of the following:

- Alaska State FSA Office
- FSA Service Center
- remote location application center established by the Alaska State FSA Office.

Note: Acceptable production evidence such as, receipts, ledgers, income statements, fish tickets, landing reports, etc., shall be submitted at the time application for TAA benefits is made with FSA, but **no later than January 20, 2004**, to verify the production of salmon caught from January 1, 2002, through December 31, 2002. All other documentation required to receive TAA cash payments must be submitted by COB September 30, 2004.

D Estimated Payment Rates

The estimated payment rates, before proration, are:

- Alaskan salmon producers, \$0.03 per pound
- Washington salmon producers, \$0.056 per pound.

3 Eligibility

A Eligible Fishermen

Pacific salmon fishermen may apply for TAA benefits anytime during the sign-up period, according to subparagraph 2 C. Notice SP-5, subparagraph 5 C, requires County Offices to verify that each TAA applicant is covered by a certified petition.

PSD is working on making available a centralized listing of producers covered by FAS approved petitions that may be accessed through the FSA Intranet system, by State, to verify TAA applicants applying for benefits in each county. Further information will be provided on this verification process when it becomes available. Until this process is finalized, State Offices shall:

- contact the PSD National Office by e-mail for a listing of producers covered by an FAS approved petition
- distribute the list to County Offices with TAA applicants.

3 Eligibility (Continued)

A Eligible Fishermen (Continued)

County Offices shall verify applicant eligibility with appropriate salmon association provided in subparagraph 2 A, if a fisherman presents a fishing permit to FSA and name is not found in the listing of producers covered by an FAS approved petition.

Note: Only FSA-229's submitted for Pacific salmon fishermen covered by an approved petition certified as eligible by FAS will be approved for TAA cash payments.

Contact the following in PSD National Office to obtain a producer listing:

- **Danielle_Cooke@wdc.fsa.usda.gov**
- **Frankie_Coln@wdc.fsa.usda.gov**
- **Joseph_Doleski@wdc.fsa.usda.gov**
- **Kimberly_Pritchett@wdc.fsa.usda.gov.**

B Eligible Alaskan Catch Pacific Salmon

The following varieties of Alaskan Pacific salmon are eligible under petitions certified as eligible for TAA benefits:

- King (Chinook)
- Silver (Coho)
- Pink (Humpies)
- Chum (Dog)
- Red (Sockeye).

C Eligible Washington Catch Pacific Salmon

The following varieties of Washington Pacific salmon are eligible under petitions certified as eligible for TAA benefits:

- King (Chinook)
- Red (Sockeye)
- Silver (Coho).

3 Eligibility (Continued)

D Action

State and County Offices shall:

- begin accepting FSA-229's and acceptable production evidence for TAA applicants
- contact PSD National Office for a listing of producers, if counties have TAA applicants
- verify that TAA applicants are covered by an approved petition certified as eligible by FAS
- provide information to Pacific salmon producers about TAA program requirements through:
 - over-the-counter discussion
 - newsletters
 - other methods of communication, as applicable.